



**From: Anniken Williams, Public Policy Polling**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: Large Majority of Dallas County Voters More Likely to Vote for District Attorney Candidate Who Will Make Positive Changes in the Criminal Justice System**

**Date: February 15, 2018**

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that a large majority of Dallas County voters are more likely to vote for a candidate for District Attorney who will make positive changes in the criminal justice system such as eliminating racial bias, holding police and prosecutors accountable for misconduct, and reducing mass incarceration. 68% of voters say it is very or somewhat important that their District Attorney prioritize reducing racial bias in the criminal justice system, while only 13% report that it is not very or not at all important to them. A large majority of voters (72%) are also more likely to support the candidate that believes they have a responsibility to work towards eliminating racial bias in the criminal justice system, and 9% say they are less likely to vote for this candidate. When asked if they would be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who believes in actively working to reduce unequal treatment by race in the criminal justice system, 65% responded that they are more likely to and 12% are less likely.

A significant majority of Dallas County voters (74%) say they are more likely to vote for the candidate who believes they have a responsibility to hold police and prosecutors accountable for misconduct, and only 9% are less likely to vote for this candidate.

Transparency is also important, with 75% of voters more likely to vote for a candidate who believes in making a prosecutor's decisions transparent by sharing data, info, and policies with the public.

When looking to mass incarceration, 82% of voters say it is very or somewhat important that their District Attorney prioritize reducing reliance on incarceration by using



alternatives to prison, and 13% find this not very or not at all important. 41% are more likely to vote for a candidate who believes they have a responsibility to reduce mass incarceration, as opposed to 26% who are less likely to support this candidate. Voters do not want a candidate who believes we must lock up as many people who commit crimes as possible, and 27% are more likely to support a candidate who believes this while 49% are less likely to.

65% of voters in Dallas County think the better way for their DA to prevent further crimes is sending fewer people to prison and sending more people to drug treatment, mental health treatment, and other rehabilitative programs, while 22% think the better way for their DA to prevent further crimes is seeking the harshest prison sentences possible to deter other people from committing crimes. On this topic, 63% are more likely to support a DA candidate who believes people with drug addictions belong in treatment, not prison, and 17% are less likely to vote for this candidate. A plurality of voters (44%) are more likely to vote for a candidate who believes that nobody should be held in jail only because they are too poor to afford bail, and 27% say they are less likely to vote for this candidate

Key findings from the survey include:

- Governor Abbott is not very popular, with 53% having a very or somewhat unfavorable opinion of him, and 42% having a very or somewhat favorable opinion about him.
- 57% of Dallas County voters think things in the United States are off on the wrong track.
- Voters say they know the responsibilities of their District Attorney and place high importance on their roles in the community. 50% say they know some about their District Attorney's responsibilities, and 25% say they know a lot.



- A large majority of voters (92%) say the role their District Attorney plays in their community is very or somewhat important, and only 5% believe the DA's role is not very or not at all important.

PPP surveyed 1,029 Dallas County, TX voters from February 2-5, 2018. The margin of error is +/- 3.1%. This poll was conducted by automated telephone interviews.

